

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

THE TRINITARIAN

All are welcome, all are loved

>>> PASTOR'S PEN

AFFIRMATING OUR LOVE

"Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

– Colossians 3:12

Some may have noticed that the worship bulletin was slightly changed as we entered into the Fall. I wrote about this change in the last edition of the Trinitarian, but it's such an essential piece of who we are and who we aspire to be, that it merits a little more talk.

The words "An Affirming Congregation" are now featured prominently on the front of the bulletin. This is a visual and continual confirmation and reminder of who Trinity aspires to be in a world of uncertainty, fear, violence and hate ... even moreso during recent times.

The decision to be affirming was made years ago by a previous pastor and congregational council, but the decision was recently made to fully lean into that earlier move. The pandemic and other concerns distracted Trinity from fully proclaiming this identity.

We have come to say "all are welcome," but do we really mean it? Do we truly live it? Are we fully committed to such a credo or are we just saying words in the hope that it will bring people in through our doors?

So, what does "affirming mean?"

"Being affirming means expressing strong support, belief, or encouragement for someone or something, validating their identity and worth. It involves confirming the truth of something or someone, rather than just being tolerant. It means centring and prioritizing marginalized identities and creating spaces where people feel respected, valued, and are the experts of their own lives."

Congregations that have declared themselves to be affirming usually do so in regards to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. In fact, one of the common questions the Trinity folks were asked at PrideFest was "Is your congregation affirming?"

Our answer was "yes."

But to be truly affirming means supporting all groups who have found themselves victimized, marginalized, abandoned and stigmatized. Being affirming means that we are fully inclusive in terms of worship and all church operations and offerings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 5 - PET BLESSING SERVICE

AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WE ARE CALLED TO BE WISE STEWARDS OF CREATION. PETS ARE IMPORTANT PARTS OF OUR FAMILIES AND, IN HONOUR OF ST. FRANCIS, OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE WILL INCLUDE A BLESSING OF ANIMALS AND OUR PETS. YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR WELL-MANNERED, SOCIALIZED PET TO THE SERVICE, BUT OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND ARE EXPECTED TO PREVENT AND/OR CLEAN UP ANY MESSES.

OCTOBER 11 - CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

THE MONTHLY TIME OF MINISTRY RUNS FROM 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. VOLUNTEERS AND CLOTHING DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME.

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FINANCE



Treasurer Update

Here is our financial statement as of August 31, 2025.

WFCU Accounts	Value	Previous Month	Comments
Chequing Account – Account 3	\$33,124.19	\$43,216.71	
Alto Savings – Account 13	\$33,942.27	\$33,935.06	
Alto Savings – Account 14	\$23,971.01	\$23,965.92	
Alto Savings – Account 15	\$5,873.15	\$5,872.40	This is the Memorial Fund
Term Deposit #11 – 3.25%	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	Matures August 14, 2026
Bingo Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	CLOSED – Money moved to 003
ELFEC Investment	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
Total Funds	\$171,910.62	\$181,990.09	
Due Back to Savings	Value	Previous Month	Comments
Gift Cards	\$3,600.00	\$4,300.00	
Total Funds	\$3,600.00	\$4,300.00	

The following are our restricted fund accounts:

Restricted Funds	Value	Previous Month	Comments
Memorial Fund	\$5,873.15	\$5,872.40	
Endowment Fund	\$30,705.21	\$30,705.21	
Congregational Growth	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	
Youth	\$1,857.84	\$1,857.84	
Sunday School	\$20.00	\$20.00	
Easter / Christmas Flowers	\$7.00	\$7.00	
Family Assist	\$590.00	\$590.00	
Music Ministry - Donations	\$425.00	\$425.00	
Music Ministry - Sponsors	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Funds	\$41,178.20	\$41,177.45	

END OF August 2025	Budgeted		Actuals
INCOME TOTAL	\$132,206.00		\$55,278.96
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$164,670.68		\$118,567.94
Deficit		\$63,288.98	

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Submitted by Bob Swiatoschik (Treasurer)

Our presence affirms

From Page 1

It means that we love and support those who find themselves living on the streets ... that we feed and clothe those who have lost all ... that we embrace and shelter those whose families have rejected them simply because of who they love or who they have found themselves to be.

It means that we operate with compassion and empathy for people living with physical and developmental needs and challenges. It means we embrace and support those who struggle with addictions. It means we provide the support of community into lives that have been isolated.

It means that we continually validate a person as they struggle through the health and mental challenges they face in daily life ... and do the heavy lifting needed to ease those challenges when and where we can.

All of this sounds like actions that faith communities follow just as a matter of course; after all, Jesus says "love your neighbours as yourself." But this is not always the case.

Thankfully it's not often, but over the years I have heard a person lament over the wrong type of person coming to a church. It's when someone who doesn't meet the homogenized vision of a congregation or who doesn't represent \$100 a week in the offering plate.

In those moments, pastors shake their heads in the sad recognition of the fact that the words of the gospel and all the sermons delivered had been lost on a particular member.

Being affirming means that we see and acknowledge the worth in a person. It means that we recognize the divine in them.

It means we never use phrases like "those people..." as in "I don't want those people in my church." These are the proclamation of exclusion.

It also means that we cannot be silent when we hear those phrases uttered. It means we advocate for them ... loudly if the situation calls for it.

This, for some it seems, is a pretty big ask. It means we continually give a hard look at how we relate to one another and how we embody the promise of the gospel in the world. It means moving from whatever comfort zone we reside in ... and into a territory that's unfamiliar.

It means that we have to shed our assumptions about a person's life or lifestyle ... that we have to cleanse our hearts of bias and prejudice. It means fear of the unfamiliar has to be tamped down by the knowledge that God's love is with us. It means we have to hear others' stories ... really hear them ... and know their struggles.

And, through all this, it means that we come to fully love one another through our affirming actions and words. When this happens, to paraphrase a former Trinity pastor, that is when grace is found.

In the coming weeks, the congregation will be invited to compose an affirming "Welcome Statement" as part of the Reconciling in Christ process.

I pray that you take the time to help draft this statement that will serve as a public pronouncement of the loving, grace-filled relationship we have with those around us. For more information on the Reconciling in Christ process, visit www.reconcilingworks.org.

During recent weeks, the chair of congregational council has urged members to become more involved in the face-to-face ministry of Trinity - specifically, the monthly clothing giveaway, but there are other outreach efforts and events that will be filling out Trinity's Fall calendar.

These requests go beyond simply looking for more help on what has become a busy and hectic Saturday at the church.

These requests are being made so that members can meet the people whom we serve in the greater community and gain a greater appreciation for the outreach ministry that has grown tremendously during the past year.

Each time, we are blessed by those we serve.

Assisting at the giveaway allows you to hear their gratitude that someone cares ... to hear their stories (many are heartbreaking and speak of the desperation present outside Trinity's walls) ... to see their faces and the look of hope in their eyes.

You affirm them by your presence and through your presence they realized God's love is for them, as well.

**Blessings,
Pastor Chris**

Ahoy! We be pirates!



It's an interesting Sunday when the pastor suddenly has hair. After a few weeks of learning to speak pirates, Trinity offered a Pirate Service on September 7. The fun service, geared toward the young and the young-at-heart, even included the choir offering "Holy, Holy, Holy" as a sea chanty.



SHARE OUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

Members and friends of Trinity,

The month of September is flying by, as days and months tend to when there is a myriad of things to do.

With autumn upon us, and temperatures still staying relatively warm in these early fall days, giving us end of summer vibes, my thoughts are drifting toward the final quarter of this fiscal year.

First of all, let's review the first service of September, which celebrated the return to regular church attendance, was inaugurated by the "Back to Church Sunday – sponsored by Pirates of the Caribbean, where Pastor Pirate Chris and the Pirate Choir with Pirate Val lead the congregation in Pirate Liturgy, aarrrrrgh Matey, and the Glory to God sung to the tune - "What shall we do with a drunken sailor."

Pirate Pastor Chris' sermon told of Jesus sharing a message "that true discipleship requires sacrifice and a resetting of personal priorities. It's a steep cost for some, but the result is a life transformed."

This message gave me food for thought as to how we make ourselves relevant today as Christians and become selfless disciples in this Church's and congregation's present outreach and any future outreach efforts to serve all God's children.

After the service those who stayed enjoyed grilled hot dogs and burgers. It was a great start to our fall services. In September we also carried out our 11th monthly Clothing Giveaway. Ponder this, we started in October 2024 and are almost at the one-year mark.

Apart from gently reminding all of you of the variety of the donation items we take, such as all manner of women's, men's and children's clothing, babies' and toddlers' clothing, and all of these, if possible, we please ask they be clean and in good repair.

We also accept donations of purses, larger purses or bags, shoes and socks.

I must also impress upon you that when you (we) work

this ministry on that particular Saturday morning, whether it be for the set up, and we have that down to a fine art, the main work we do, and the blessings that all receive, is when we open the doors at 10 a.m.

Also please note, our visitors already line up at around 9:15 am.

You have the opportunity to see and speak to the people we serve, experience and sense the joy on the faces of those whom we serve, and those we help. Besides that, you will get to know everything that goes on to carry out this endeavour, even including a coffee or tea and a snack.

The need is great and the ones we help are more than grateful, for the clothing yes, but also for that kind word, a greeting, or perhaps some lively conversation, a smile or a gesture.

At every giveaway, and I've been to all but two, I am moved not only by the numbers that come, but also the entire spectrum of people, whether it be a mother with their child or children, single people, families, disabled people, young people, older and old folks, open or closeted LGBTQIA2S+, those who know the English language, and those who have a different mother tongue, and haven't been in Canada all that long.

Most recently there have been young people who come for clothing, but also to offer us their assistance by giving volunteer hours, going through their high school social volunteer commitment system.

Blessings are truly abundant when we serve. There again, we see ministry in action, and the appreciative folks in our community, that this ministry serves. As a congregation, we must show them that we are there for them.

Be the living testimony of showing God's love to those in need through positive words and positive inclusive actions.

Dagmar Raulin
Trinity Council Chair

TRINITY'S ADVENT CRAFTERS' MARKET AND CAFE
SATURDAY, NOV 29. 10 AM - 3 PM
BE A VENDORR SPACE IS LIMITED
CONTACT: DAGMAR AT RAULIN973@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL: (519) 791-7004

➤➤➤ MUSIC MINISTRY

CONCERT SLATE FILLING UP

We are always looking for sponsors and donors to this wonderful mission. Contact me for more information.

Visit our new Chamber Music Windsor Website. You can see past and upcoming concerts, sponsors and you can even purchase tickets online!!

["www.chambermusicwindsor.ca"](http://www.chambermusicwindsor.ca)

Next Events:

Saturday, December 20 – The Academy Brass Quintet – They are coming back!! If you missed this performance last year – DO NOT miss it this year. This concert will start at 4pm – Tickets will be:

\$30 – Adults
\$10 - Students

Sunday, May 31, 2026, –Stay tuned!!

Submitted by Bob Swiatoschik (Council Lead for Music Ministry)

**Have a voice?
Join the choir this Fall
Talk to Val or Dagmar
for details**

➤➤➤ GIFT CARDS

SPECIAL OFFER

Buy two gift cards (see below) and get a \$10 Dollarama Gift Card for only \$10!!!

Only while supplies last!!

These are the Gift Cards available:

Card	Value
Zehrs / No Frills	\$25
Zehrs / No Frills	\$50
Zehrs / No Frills	\$100
Metro / Food Basics	\$25
Metro / Food Basics	\$50
Metro / Food Basics	\$100
Sobey's / Freshco	\$25
Sobey's / Freshco	\$50
McDonald's	\$25
Shoppers	\$25
Tim Hortons	\$15
Tim Hortons	\$25
Starbucks	\$25
Canadian Tire	\$25
Indigo / Chapters	\$25
Dollarama	\$10
Dollarama	\$25
Giant Tiger	\$25
Walmart	\$25
Winners	\$25
Petro Canada	\$50



Advent Crafter's Market & Cafe

Saturday, November 29 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Check out the more than a dozen artists and artisans offering
Christmas gifts and items!
Enjoy lunch at the Trinity Café
Peruse the Trinity Bake sale offering the specialties of the Trinity folks

Rent a table, volunteer, bake something for the sale or just take in the event!
See Dagmar or Pastor Chris for details

**Send in your news,
photos and recipes.**

➤➤➤ MAKE AN OFFERING ANYTIME

In response to requests from members, Trinity accepts offerings via eTransfer. You must set up the eTransfer information in your bank account.

The email address to be used is "trinitylutheran@gmail.com"

In the "comment" section, please indicate:

“Trinity - General Offering”

and ...

Put your name and address in the comment section so we can provide a tax receipt

»» DONATIONS NEEDED



Donations of gently used clothing are needed to replenish the bare racks and tables after the September 13 giveaway. The need for our ministry continues to grow and so does the urgency for donations and volunteers. Contact the church office to arrange a dropoff of donations. Pass the word to family and friends.

»» HELPERS NEEDED

We're on the lookout for people to assist with Sunday services. We can use readers, ushers, liturgical assistants, counters, altar guilders and fellowship hosts and hostesses. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office.